



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/462,633	01/11/00	UKAI	K 423-54

NIXON & VANDERHYE
1100 NORTH GLEBE ROAD
8TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON VA 22201-4714

HM22/0130

EXAMINER

PULLIAN, A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1615	

DATE MAILED: 01/30/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/462,633

Applicant(s)

UKAI ET AL.

Examiner

Amy E Pulliam

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.

- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the Declaration and Information Disclosure Statement, received January 27, 2000, and the Preliminary Amendment A, received January 11, 2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 97/25066 to Depui *et al.*. Depui *et al.* teach of an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a proton pump inhibitor, combined with an alkaline substance, protected by coatings. Depui *et al.* also teach that examples of proton pump inhibitors are pantaprazole, lansoprazole, and omeprazole (p 8-11). Depui *et al.* also teach that acceptable alkaline substances can be sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium salts of phosphoric and carbonic acid, among others (p 15, l 1-5). Depui *et al.* also teach that the core formulation will be coated with a separating layer, an enteric coating, and can have additional coatings. This disclosure anticipates applicant's claims to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a benzimidazole and an additive (alkaline agent), with an intermediate layer, an enteric coating, and optional additional coatings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Depui *et al.* as applied above. Depui *et al.* does not specifically teach all of the possible choices for component B in applicant's claimed composition. However, Depui *et al.* does teach the combination of a benzimidazole with an alkaline agent, such as sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium salts of phosphoric and carbonic acid (p 15, l 1-5). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine any well known alkaline substance with a benzimidazole, based on the teachings of Depui *et al.* in order to form a formulation for treatment of gastrointestinal disorders. Therefore, this invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Depui *et al.* as applied above, and further in view of US Patent 6,030,988 to Gilis *et al.*. Depui *et al.* is described above as teaching a formulation comprising a benzimidazole, an alkaline agent, an intermediate coating, an enteric coating and optional additional coatings. Depui *et al.* does not teach rabeprazole as a well known benzimidazole. Gilis

Art Unit: 1615

et al. is relied upon for the teaching that omeprazole, rabeprazole, and lansoprazole are all well known proton pump inhibitors (c 5, l 15-18). Gilis *et al.* also teaches that crosslinked povidone is well known tablet excipient (c 6, l 56-60). One of ordinary skill in the art would have used any well known proton pump inhibitor in the composition taught by Depui *et al.*, as the drugs are all from the same family. The expected result would be a successful pharmaceutical formulation, regardless of which proton pump inhibitor is used. Therefore, this invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Claims 6, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Depui *et al.* in view of Gilis *et al.* as applied above, and further in view of US Patent 5,708,017 to Dave *et al.*. Depui *et al.* in view of Gilis *et al.* are described above as teaching a formulation comprising a benzimidazole, an alkaline agent, an intermediate coating, an enteric coating and optional additional coatings. Depui *et al.* in view of Gilis *et al.* do not teach that the composition have a moisture resistant coating. Dave *et al.* teach of an oral pharmaceutical composition containing a proton pump inhibitor. Further, Dave *et al.* teach the proton pump inhibitors are known in the pharmaceutical art to be very acid labile and therefore, must be enteric coated. Dave *et al.* also teach that this enteric coating causes a great problem with moisture sensitivity. It is the position of the examiner that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make one of the additional coatings allowed in the Depui composition a moisture resistant coating base on the teachings of Dave *et al.*. The expected result would be a

Art Unit: 1615

successful enteric coated formulation which is resistant to moisture. Therefore, this invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy E Pulliam whose telephone number is (703) 308-4710. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on (703) 308-2927. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7922 for regular communications and (703) 308-7922 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1234.

Amy E. Pulliam
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1615
January 29, 2001


Gollamudi S. Kishore, PhD
Primary Examiner
Group 1600
For TK Page